



World Refugee Day

June 20, 2014

What is World Refugee Day?

In 2001, the United Nations declared June 20th World Refugee Day, a worldwide celebration. The day honors the courage and determination of families forced to flee their homes due to threat of persecution. This celebration is an opportunity to acknowledge the impact of war on families, bring awareness to the refugee experience, and celebrate the vast contributions refugee families have made in communities across the United States.



PEACE, Inc. EHS/HS Program Celebrates!

In Syracuse, NY, People's Equal Action & Community Effort, Inc. (PEACE) staff and families will celebrate World Refugee Day at the annual festival in Schiller Park. The event will include an all day soccer tournament, performances, world music, and food.

At the event, eligible refugee families will have the opportunity to enroll in Head Start at the PEACE Head Start recruitment booth. PEACE has collaborated with two local refugee resettlement programs to create a shared database to coordinate family services.

Did You Know?

A refugee is a person who "owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reason of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to, or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country...."

(United Nations High Commission for Refugees, 1951 Convention & 1967 Protocol)

43.7 million

people around the world are refugees or internally displaced.

70 countries

are represented by refugee families in the U.S., including Burma, Bhutan, Iraq, Somalia, and Democratic Republic of Congo.

49 U.S. states

have refugee resettlement programs and emphasize early self-sufficiency for adults.

35 - 40%

of refugees resettled in the U.S. are children.

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Almost all refugee parents with children up to 5 years old will meet the income-based eligibility requirements for Head Start services when they first arrive in the United States.



Office of Head Start National Center on Cultural and Linguistic Responsiveness
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<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/cultural-linguistic>





5 Ways to Celebrate with Programs and Families

1. Reflect on your own cultures and celebrate the similarities and differences throughout the year.
2. Work with staff across roles to share families' *funds of knowledge* (the bodies of knowledge, skills, practices, and cultural resources within a household) and incorporate into program planning and classroom curriculum.
3. Acknowledge families' home countries by placing dots on a world map and posting it in your center. Invite families to teach cultural activities (e.g., stories, art, songs, games) in your program.
4. Learn greetings and other important phrases in families' languages and use throughout the year.
5. Visit families' homes to learn and record, if permitted, stories and songs of elder relatives that can be incorporated into program planning.

Famous Refugees

Chinua Achebe (<i>author</i>)	Luol Deng (<i>athlete</i>)
Madeleine Albright (<i>politician</i>)	Albert Einstein (<i>scientist</i>)
Isabel Allende (<i>author</i>)	Gloria Estefan (<i>singer</i>)

Helpful NCCLR References and other Resources

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/events>

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/news/partnering-to-increase-refugee-families-access-to-high-quality-child-care>

<http://www.brycs.org/clearinghouse/Books-for-Refugee-and-Immigrant-Children-0-5-Years.cfm>

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/cultural-linguistic/center/refugee-families.html> González, N., Moll, L., and Amanti, C. (2005). *Funds of Knowledge: Theorizing Practices in Households, Communities, and Classrooms*. New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Publishers

Tell us how you are celebrating: Ncclr@bankstreet.edu

